

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STOCKHOLM 2905

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, SREF, VM, SW, UNHCR
SUBJ: SWEDEN AND THE INDOCHINESE REFUGEE PROBLEM

REF: STATE 72137

1. POLOFF HAS IN RECENT WEEKS DISCUSSED SWEDISH POLICY TOWARD INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WITH A VARIETY OF MFA OFFICIALS, INCLUDING DIRECTOR OF EAST ASIAN BUREAU (SVEN HIRDMAN), LEGAL DIVISION OFFICE, AND FORWIGN AID OFFICER-IN-CHARGE. WHAT EMERGES IS THAT SWEDES HAS CONDUCTED A FULL SCALE REASSESSMENT OF ITS POLICIES IN CONNECTION WITH RECENT VISIT TO STOCKHOLM OF UN HING COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. GOS HAS SINCE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING DECISIONS:

A. GOS WOULD MAKE A SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION TO UNHCR OF TWO MILLION SWEDISH KRONOR. THE FUNDS WOULD BE USED SOLELY FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES, PRIMARILY THOSE LOCATED IN THAILAND.
B. WORD WOULD BE PASSED TO ALL SWEDISH SHIPPERS ENCOURAGING THEM TO PICK UP BOAT PEOPLE AND GUARANTEEING THAT SWEDISH SHIPOWNERS WOULD ENCOUNTER NO FINANCIAL RISKS BY SO DOING. THE GOS WOULD ASSUME ALL FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS AND TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESETTLING OF SUCH REFUGEES.
C. SWEDEN WOULD NOT TAKE A FIXED QUOTA OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES FOR RESETTLEMENT IN SWEDEN. IT IS FELT THAT FOR REASONS OF
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CLIMATE AND TEMPERAMENT, INDOCHINESE REFUGEES WOULD HAVE A PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT TIME ADJUSTING TO SWEDISH LIFE. MORE-OVER, SWEDISH LAW PROVIDES FOR A REFUGEE QUOTA OF 1,250 CASES PER YEAR. SWEDEN PERFERS TO FILL THIS QUOTA FOR TIME BEING PRIMARILY WITH LATIN AMERICAN POLITICAL REFUGEES WHO WOULD PLAN TO RETURN TO THEIR HOME COUNTRY AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
D. SWEDEN WOULD CONSIDER CASES OF UNUSUAL HARDSHIP (I.E.

THOSE WHO FOR SOME SPEICAL REASON COULD NOT BE RESETTLED
ELSEWHERE) FOR RESETTLEMENT IN SWEDEN. SUCH CASES SHOULD BE
REFERRED BY UNHCR REP IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO UNHCR REP IN
GENEVA WHO SHOULD THEN CONTACT APPROPRIATE SWEDISH AUTHORITIES
IN GENEVA.
KENNEDY-MINOTT

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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